



Opportunity Focus



A Publication of the Health Professions
Education Foundation

Giving Golden Opportunities

Winter 2001

www.healthprofessions.ca.gov

Volume 1; Issue No. 1

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SERVING THE UNDERSERVED

Health Professions Education Foundation is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation established in 1987 to provide financial assistance to health professional students throughout California who are willing to practice in underserved areas. The mission of the Foundation is to improve access to health care in underserved areas of California by providing financial support to health professional students and graduates dedicated to serving in those areas.

The Foundation awards scholarships and educational loan repayment grants through two special funds: the Health Professions Education Fund and the Registered Nurse Education Fund.

The Health Professions Education Fund is funded entirely through philanthropic contributions from hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, individuals and through grants from public and private agencies. Donations to the Health Professions Education Fund are tax deductible.

The Registered Nurse Education Fund is supported through a \$5 surcharge on renewal fees for the Registered Nurse license in California.

For information on how to contribute to the Foundation, please call (800) 773-1669.

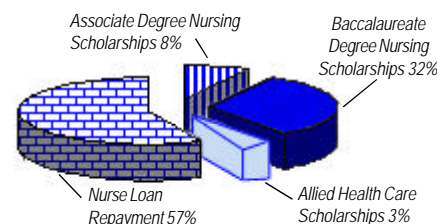
1999- 2000 Program Accomplishments

\$521,830 Awarded in Scholarships and Loan Repayments -

The Health Professions Education Foundation awarded \$225,500 in scholarships and \$296,330 in loan repayments to 90 allied health and nursing students during the 1999-2000 school year.

Scholarship and loan repayment application packets were mailed statewide to community colleges, universities, and high schools that offer allied health care curriculums. Applications were also mailed to health professional associations, hospitals, clinics, community health centers that serve the underserved, and to individual applicants.

A breakdown by program of the dollars awarded for the 1999-2000 school year is illustrated below:



Program Enhancements - Award amounts for the *Kaiser Permanente Allied Health Care Scholarship Program* have been increased from \$1,000 and \$1,500 for community college and university applicants to \$2,000 and \$2,500, respectively.

(Continued on pg. 2)

Are You a Foundation Alumni?

Through the years, the Health Professions Education Foundation (formerly the Minority Health Professions Education Foundation) has lost contact with many of its alumni. If you or someone you know is a past recipient of any of the Foundation's programs, we'd like to hear from you. Send us a note and tell us where your health professional career has taken you. Or, call us with your name, current telephone number and address so that we can keep in touch with you. If you'd like to be featured "In the Spotlight" section of our news letter, let us know. Alumni responses should be mailed to:

Health Professions Education Foundation
ATTN: Alumni Information
1600 9th Street, Suite 436
Sacramento, CA 95814

program enhancements continued

During the latter part of 2000, the Foundation enhanced its scholarship and loan repayment programs by analyzing needs and making adjustments to make filing applications easier.

Specifically:

- Application instructions for all programs were reviewed and rewritten for clarity and ease of understanding. Existing narratives have been made more descriptive to simplify the application filing process. For example, the "Application Requirements" section explains what constitutes a complete and acceptable application, and the newly added "Selection Criteria" section explains how applications are evaluated.
- Application forms for all programs have been redesigned and document requirements have been streamlined. Financial aid documentation now requires the Student Aid Report (SAR), or, a copy of the applicant's prior year tax return.

Award cycles were increased from annually to biannually for the nursing (associate and baccalaureate) scholarships, the registered nurse loan repayment program, and the allied health care scholarship program.

A recent note from one of our Loan Repayment awardees:

Dear Health Professions Education Foundation,

Thank you so much for the approval of my application to the Loan Repayment Program for \$8,000! WOW! I never expected to receive this much. I (and my girls) are truly thankful for your generosity. Serving you in Rural Northern California.

Karen Edwards

Health Professional

In The Spotlight



focus on alumni

Marcellina Johnson, of West Covina, California was awarded the Registered Nurse Education BSN Scholarship in 1993, and served at the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services-USC Medical Center.

"Part of the scholarship obligation was that I work in a medically underserved area for two years," says Ms. Johnson, "but the LAC/DHS-USC Medical Center had previously been my employer. It was my choice to work in a medically underserved area. Having the privilege of being able to serve a population that appreciates the sacrifices you make for them was the most rewarding experience I had while working in a medically underserved facility."

When asked how the BSN Scholarship award helped her, Ms. Johnson responded, "In order to be a public health nurse you must complete a BSN program that offers public health nurse certification. The Foundation's BSN Scholarship helped me to pay for the program, which otherwise I would not have been able to do."

Asked if there was anything she learned by working in a medically underserved area, Ms. Johnson stated, "I learned that people, no matter what socioeconomic level, cultural background, ethnic background they belong to, or religious beliefs they may have, all deserve to be treated equally. Everyone deserves the right to have equal access to medical care." Having since earned a promotion, Marcellina Johnson now works as a consulting public health nurse for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services – Children's Health and Disability Prevention Program, which responds to the needs of foster children.

2001-2002 Scholarship Application Cycle Opened December 1, 2000

Application cycles recently opened for all Foundation scholarship and loan repayment programs. Final filing dates for the 2000/2001 application cycles are as follows:

Kaiser Permanente
Allied Health Care Scholarship Program
(\$2,000-\$2,500/year)
September 12, 2001

Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)
Scholarship Program
(up to \$4,000/year)
September 12, 2001

Registered Nurse (BSN) Education
Scholarship Program
(up to \$8,000/year)
September 12, 2001

Registered Nurse Education
Loan Repayment Program (LRP)
(up to \$8,000/over 2 years)
September 12, 2001

Health Professions Education
Scholarship (HPSP) Program
(up to \$10,000/year)
April 25, 2001

Health Professions Education
Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)
(up to \$20,000 over 2 years)
April 25, 2001

These programs assist health professional students and recent graduates of the following specialties: nursing, nurse practitioner, nurse midwifery, medical imaging, occupational therapy, physical therapy, respiratory care, social work, pharmacy, pharmacy technician, medical laboratory technologist, surgical technician, ultrasound technician, diagnostic medical sonography, physician assistant, dentistry, and dental hygiene.

Detailed program information, along with application instructions and forms, may be downloaded from our web site at: www.healthprofessions.ca.gov, or, you may call the Foundation office at (800) 773-1669 to request an application packet..

What is a Medically Underserved Area?

The Foundation frequently receives questions about the term “medically underserved area.” The question arises because all recipients of the Foundation’s programs must sign a contractual agreement to practice in a medically underserved area of California for a minimum of two years. So people ask, “What is a medically underserved area (MUA)?”



The answer is not simple because there are several types of MUA's and each has its own criteria.

First, **Medically Underserved Area/Medically Underserved Population (MUA/MUP)** designations

are made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care's Division of Shortage Designation. The criteria used to determine whether an area qualifies for an MUA/MUP designation includes indicators like:

- Percent of population over age 65;
- Percent of population below 100% of poverty;
- Infant mortality rate;
- Number of primary care physicians there are per 1,000 people in the population (this applies to MUA designations only).
- Number of primary care physicians per 1,000 people for selected population groups—ie. Indigent, migrant, poverty, racial, ethnic, etc. (this applies to MUP designations only).

Federal Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are also designated by USDHHS, HRSA, Bureau of Primary Health Care's Division of Shortage Designation.

In general the three types of HPSA designations are classified based on geography, population groups, or type of facility.

Geographic HPSA designations refer to entities in California that have less than one primary care physician to 3,500 civilian population or a physician to population ratio of 1:3,000 with a high need indicator.

Population Group HPSAs are those entities in California that have less than one primary care physician to 3,000 for selected population groups (indigent, migrant, poverty, racial ethnic, etc.).

Facility HPSA designations are certain primary care clinics and correctional facilities that have difficulty recruiting and attracting health care providers.

California Areas of Unmet Priority Need for Primary Care Family Physicians are designated by the California Health Manpower Policy Commission. The Commission divides the state into 487 Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA's) to assess the need for primary care physicians. In urban areas the physician to population ratio of 1:1,967 is used to determine the need for primary care physicians. In rural or other special cases the physician to population ratio of 1:1,855 is used to determine the need for primary care physicians.

Facilities interested in learning more about designation as a medically underserved area should contact Konder Chung at (916) 654-2884, Program Coordinator for Shortage Area Designations with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

The Foundation's web site has a partial listing by county of MUA health care facilities that meet the service obligation for the Foundation's scholarship and loan repayment programs. To view the listing, simply visit our website at www.healthprofessions.ca.gov, click on “MUA Facilities,” click on the county of interest and the listing is alphabetized by city. The MUA Facilities listing is only a partial list, therefore a facility that is not listed may be located in a MUA census tract. The Foundation's website can assist you with identifying a facility's census tract number. Specifically, obtain the complete address (street number, street, city, zip) of the facility of interest, return to the Foundation's homepage (www.healthprofessions.ca.gov), click on “MUA Census Tract Listings,” and follow the instructions provided.

The Foundation encourages all scholarship and loan repayment program applicants to review the MUA Facilities and/or MUA Census Tract Listings before filing an application or accepting an award to determine where opportunities for employment exist in medically underserved areas.



The energy challenge facing California is real. You can do your part by using energy efficiently at home and work. For specific energy saving tips, go to the State of California Web site at www.my.ca.gov.

Health Professions Education Foundation Staff



Lisa M. Montgomery, Program Administrator- Oversees the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Registered Nurse Education (BSN) Scholarship Programs and the Registered Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program (LRP).

Angela L. Smith, MPA, Acting Executive Director - Directs program implementation and operational activities, and seeks funding for the Foundation.

Monique J. Voss, Administrative Technician - Provides administrative support to the Director and to the Foundation's programs.

Monique R. Bryant, Program Assistant - Serves as webmaster and graphic design coordinator and provides program monitoring support.

LaTanya A. Henley, Program Administrator - Oversees the Kaiser Permanente Allied Health Care Scholarship Program and the Health Professions Education Scholarship (HPSP) and Loan Repayment (HPLRP) Programs.

Sandee M. Medlin, Program Assistant (seated) - Provides contract monitoring and program support.

Commentary

The Health Professions Education Foundation (Foundation) welcomes you to our first issue of "Opportunity Focus." This publication was developed to:

- 1) Publicize our scholarship and educational loan repayment opportunities;
- 2) Focus the spotlight on scholarship and loan repayment program alumni who have taken the opportunity to further their education as well as those who have completed their education and have chosen to serve the underserved; and,
- 3) Share opportunities for philanthropic contributions which can be made by hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, and individuals, and through grants from public and private agencies.

We welcome your input and suggestions for making this publication reader-friendly and informative. It is intended to promote opportunities for serving the underserved and opportunities for giving, hence the name, "Opportunity Focus."

Angela L. Smith, MPA
Acting Executive Director



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